

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2181

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0480

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NL, NS

SUBJ: PRESSURES MOUNT FOR COMPROMISE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT

REF : PARAMARIBO 0456

1. ONE OF THE TOP OPPOSITION LEADERS HAS PUBLICLY FAULTED HIS PARTY'S HARD LINE, AMID GROWING COMMUNITY PRESSURES FOR COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT OF PRESENT PARLIAMENTARY IMPASSE.

2. VHP OPPOSITION STRATEGY OF IMMOBILIZING THE STATEN (PARLIAMENT) THROUGH LACK OF QUORUM, THUS PREVENTING ACTION ON POST-INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION AND OTHER ESSENTIAL LEGISLATION, REMAINS UNCHANGED. HARD LINE STRATEGY HAS SEEMED TO BEAR FRUIT IN LAST FEW DAYS WITH REPORTS THAT NPS DEFECTORS, LIESDEK-CLARKE, LIE KONG FONG AND SOMOHARDJO, HAVE AGREED TO ACCOMPANY 17-MAN VHP DELEGATION TO THE NETHERLANDS TO PRESENT CASE FOR INDEPENDENCE SLOWDOWN. VHP HOPES TO SHOW BY THIS JOINT ACTION THAT IT, AND NOT THE NPK, CONTROLS MAJORITY IN STATEN AND THUS STRENGTHEN ARGUMENT FOR GON INTERVENTION IN IMPASSE.

3. LIESDEK'S HUSBAND CONFIRMS THAT SHE HAS AGREED TO ACCOMPANY
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VHP ON MISSION TO THE NETHERLANDS. INTENTIONS OF LIE KONG

FONG AND SOMOHARDJO ARE LESS CERTAIN DESPITE HUSBAND'S CLAIM THAT LIESDEK IS IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH LIE KONG FONG AND THAT SHE IS AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK FOR HIM AND FOR SOMOHARDJO. ACCORDING TO HEAD OF CID, LIE KONG FONG IS NOW UNDERGOING MEDICAL TREATMENT IN COLOMBIA.

4. RULING NPK IS MAINTAINING PUBLIC POSTURE OF CONFIDENCE AND IS DEVOTING ITSELF TO ORGANIZING ALMOST DAILY STREET MARCHES, MEETINGS AND PETITIONS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT ENJOYS SUPPORT OF MAJORITY OF "PEOPLE", DESPITE LOSS OF VOTING MAJORITY IN STATEN.

5. MEANWHILE, CONCERN IS GROWING IN COMMUNITY THAT IMMOBILIZATION OF STATEN AND INCREASING RELIANCE OF BOTH NPK AND VHP ON EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY -- ALBEIT PEACEFUL -- POLITICAL METHODS COULD AGGRAVATE ETHNIC TENSIONS AND ERODE RESPECT FOR LAW. MUCH OF CONCERN CENTERS AROUND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER BRUMA'S PNR. PRIVATE REMARKS OF PNR STATEN-MEMBER ROBIN RAVALES -- THAT HE, FOR ONE, WOULD BE PREPARED TO DECLARE INDEPENDENCE NOVEMBER 25 WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS AGREED CONSTITUTION AND REGARDLESS OF VIEWS OF THE OPPOSITION -- ARE ILLUSTRATIVE OF KIND OF THINKING THAT WORRIES HINDUSTANIS AND MANY CREOLES. WITHIN LAST FEW DAYS THERE HAS BEEN GROUND-SWELL OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF CONCERN AND MEDIATION OFFERS BY CHURCH AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS, NOTABLY THE SMALL SURINAM SOCIALIST PARTY, IN AN EFFORT TO GET SERIOUS POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS RE-STARTED.

6. MOST SIGNIFICANT CALL FOR COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT HAS COME FROM SURPRISING SOURCE: ONE OF LACHMON'S CHIEF LIEUTENANTS, STATEN-MEMBER GEORGE HINDORI. LATTER HAS SENT OPEN LETTER TO HIS LEADER CALLING FOR AN END TO VHP'S POLICY OF NON-COOPERATION. HE EXPRESSED FEARS THAT PARTY'S BOYCOTT OF THE STATEN AND THE SENDING OF AN EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO THE NETHERLANDS COULD PLAY INTO HANDS OF UNDEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS IN SURINAM. HINDORI CALLED FOR OPPOSITION'S RETURN TO THE STATEN TO CONSIDER DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND FOR COOPERATION WITH NPK IN COMPOSING ALL-PARTY DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN DUTCH PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS SURROUNDING SURINAM'S SEPARATION FROM REALM. BY SO DOING, HE WROTE, VHP'S VIEWS COULD BE FULLY AIRED IN ATMOSPHERE OF CALM AND RESPECT FOR LAW.

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7. SPECULATION ABOUT POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS OF LETTER IS, NATURALLY, INTENSE. HEAD OF DUTCH MISSION, PARAMARIBO, AMBASSADOR LEOPOLD -- WHO HAS BEEN ABLE TO REACH HINDORI SINCE LETTER APPEARED -- TOLD ME THAT HINDORI BELIEVES SHOCK EFFECT ON VHP HAS BEEN SALUTARY. BUT ADAMANTINE PUBLIC REACTION OF LACHMIEPERSAD MUNGRA, HINDORI'S CHIEF RIVAL IN VHP, INDICATES THAT HINDORI WILL HAVE HARD

TIME WINNING OVER PARTY, AND MAY BE RISKING HIS OWN POLITICAL FUTURE IN PROCESS.

8. ARRON AND LACHMON MET SEPTEMBER 16 WITH INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS. LATER, AT PRESS CONFERENCE, ARRON GAVE LACHMON'S TERMS FOR SETTLEMENT, AS FOLLOWS: IN RETURN FOR LACHMON'S AGREEMENT TO WORK FOR INDEPENDENCE ON OR ABOUT NOVEMBER 25, THE NPK MUST A) AGREE THAT CONSTITUTION WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED BEFORE SURINAM'S TIES WITH REALM ARE FINALLY SEVERED, B) ALLOW VHP TO ATTACH DISSENTING OPINIONS TO GOS/GON AGREEMENTS, C) RECOGNIZE LIESDEK'S NPS FRACTION AND D) CALL EARLY ELECTIONS AFTER INDEPENDENCE. ARRON REJECTED (C) OUT OF HAND AND MADE CLEAR HE THOUGHT TIME FOR COMPROMISE HAD NOT YET ARRIVED. IT REMAINS BE SEEN HOW NEW SITUATION IN VHP, CREATED BY HINDORI'S PUBLIC DISAGREEMENT TTVRKE LACHMON, WILL AFFECT VHP'S AND NPK'S NEGOTIATION POSITIONS.

9. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PRESSURES ARE RISING FOR POLITICAL COMPROMISE, SOLUTION TO IMPASSE IS NOT YET IN SIGHT.
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